

THE NAVAL HISTORY OF KANSAS



www.history.navy.mil

SHIPS





USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69)

Named for Kansas native Dwight D. Eisenhower, CVN 69 was commissioned Oct. 18, 1977. The nuclear powered aircraft carrier and its embarked air wing provide a wide range of flexible mission capabilities, to include maritime security operations, expeditionary power projection, forward naval presence, crisis response, sea control, deterrence, counter-terrorism, information operations, security cooperation and counter-proliferation.

At least 40 ships have been named after the state of Kansas, its cities, places, and people. A few of those include:

USS Atchison County (LST 60), 1944
USS Bauer (DE 1025), 1957
USS Caney (AO 95), 1945
USS Chikaskia (AO 54), 1943
Cimarron I (Steam Gunboat), 1862
USS Cimarron II (AO 22), 1939
USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), 1977
USS Edgar G. Chase (DE 16), 1943
Galena I (Ironclad), 1862
Galena II (Wooden Steamer), 1880
USS Galena III (PC 1136), 1943
USS Graham County (LST 1176), 1958
USS Hawkins (DD 873), 1945
USS Kansas I (Gunboat), 1863
Kansas II (Battleship No. 21), 1907
USS Kansas City (AOR 3), 1970
PCU Kansas City II (LCS 22)
USS Kendall C. Campbell (DE 443), 1944
USS Lyon County (LST 904), 1945

USS Munsee (AT 107), 1948
Neosho I (Monitor), 1863
USS Neosho II (AO 23), 1939
USS Neosho III (AO 48), 1942
USS Neosho IV (AO 143), 1954
USS Oberlin (PC 560), 1942
USS Rawlins (APA 226), 1944
USS Rice County (LST 1089), 1945
USS Ross II (DDG 71), 1997
USS Smoky Hill River (LSMR 531), 1945
USS Tabberer (DE 418), 1944
USS Timmerman (DD 828), 1952
Topeka I (Gunboat), 1898
USS Topeka II (CL 67), 1944
USS Topeka III (SSN 754), 1989
USS Trego (AKA 78), 1944
USS Wichita II (CA 45), 1939
USS Wichita II (LOS 13), 2019
Wyandotte II (Monitor), 1876

5 1 1 5 1 1



Amelia Earhart Aviator

Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, KS. In 1932, she flew solo across the Atlantic Ocean and Congress awarded her the Distinguished Flying Cross for this feat. While attempting to fly around the world, Earhart and her navigator were lost in the Pacific Ocean. The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard conducted an extensive search, but never found Earhart's plane. USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6) was named in her honor and began service with the Military Sealift Command in 2008.



Donald Kirby Ross Captain

Captain Donald Kirby Ross was born in Beverly, KS. As a warrant officer, Ross served on USS Nevada (BB 36) during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his efforts to furnish power. Ross was commissioned as an ensign in June 1942 and participated in D-Day in June 1944. He retired from the Navy as a captain after 27 years of service. USS Ross (DDG 71) was named in his honor.



Harry D. Felt Admiral

Admiral Harry D. Felt was born in Topeka, KS. During the Battle of the Eastern Solomons in August 1942, Felt commanded an air group aboard USS Saratoga (CV 3). Admiral Felt became the vice chief of naval operations in 1956 and the commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command in 1958, where he influenced U.S. policy in Vietnam. Cape Felt in Antarctica was named in his honor.

PLAGES



Did You Know...?

Did you know that two men from Goodland, KS, William J. Purvis and Charles A. Wilson, are credited with designing the first patented helicopter?



Naval Air Station Olathe

Naval Air Station (NAS) Olathe was built in 1942 to handle the influx of pilots needing training during World War II. By 1945, the base had five hangars and barracks that could house 6,400 personnel. John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, completed his primary flight training at this air station. NAS Olathe was decommissioned in 1970.



NOSC Wichita

The mission of Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Wichita is to generate mobilization readiness by providing administrative services, training support, and world class customer service to Reserve personnel in support of surge and operational requirements for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces.

Sources: Naval History and Heritage Command; navy.mil; Navy Live blog; Naval Sea Systems Command; Naval Vessel Register; U.S. Navy Reserve; U.S. Department of Defense; U.S. Department of Justice; National Archives; U.S. Board on Geographic Names; Kansas Secretary of State CyberCivics; U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs; National Naval Aviation Museum. Infographic by Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division.